

TAXICABS*

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 24-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Driver is a person in charge of, or operating, any passenger-carrying motor-propelled vehicle as herein defined, either as owner or employee or under the direction of such owners or employees.

Owner is to be a person who in any manner has the proprietary use, ownership or control of any passenger-carrying, motor-propelled vehicle.

Stand is to be a place designated for the use, while awaiting employment, of the particular motor-propelled, passenger-carrying vehicles authorized to utilize the same.

Taxicab is hereby defined to be a motor-propelled vehicle which is used for the transportation of passengers for hire over and along the public streets, not over a defined route, but as to route and destination in accordance with and under the direction of the person hiring such vehicle: (Code 1961, § 26.1)

Sec. 24-2. Liability insurance.

It shall be unlawful for any owner or operator to drive or operate a taxicab or cause the same to be driven or operated in the city and no license for the operation thereof shall be granted unless and until there is on file with the city clerk and in full force and effect at all times while such taxicab is being operated a policy of insurance approved by

the city attorney, with a solvent and responsible company authorized to do business in the state, insuring the owner of such taxicab (giving the manufacture number and state license number) against loss by reason of injury or damage that may result to persons or property from the negligent operation or defective construction of such taxicab, or from any other cause. Such policy shall be limited to not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the injury or death of one person, twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) for the injury of two (2) or more persons in the same accident and one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for injury or destruction of property.

(b) Such policy of insurance shall guarantee the payment to any and all persons suffering injury or damage to person or property of any final judgment rendered against such owner or driver, within the limits above mentioned, irrespective of the financial condition or any acts or omissions of such owner or driver, and shall inure to the benefit of such persons, and to a widow, child, or personal representative of a person killed while a passenger of such taxicab.

(c) If, at any time, such policy of insurance is cancelled by the company issuing the same, or the authority of the company to do business in the state shall be revoked, the city clerk shall require the owner to replace such policy with another policy, satisfactory to the city attorney and in default thereof the owner's license to operate shall be revoked. (Code 1961, § 26.6)

Sec. 24-3. Duty to accept passengers.

It shall be unlawful for any driver, operating under a permit issued pursuant to the

*Cross references—License tax for taxicabs, § 12-43, Category I; motor vehicles and traffic generally, Ch. 14.
State law reference—Authority to regulate vehicles for hire, Veh. Code, § 21100(b).

terms of this chapter, to refuse, when the vehicle is in service and not otherwise engaged, to transport any person who presents himself for carriage in a sober and orderly manner and for a lawful purpose. (Code 1961, § 26.5)

Sec. 24-4. Direct route to be followed.

Any driver employed to transport passengers to a definite point shall take the most direct route that will take the passengers to their destination safely and expeditiously. (Code 1961, § 26.2)

Secs. 24-5—24-15. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. RATES AND FARES

Sec. 24-16. "Taximeter" defined.

A "taximeter" is hereby defined to be a mechanical device attached to a vehicle for hire, by means of which device the authorized charge for hire of such vehicle is mechanically calculated on the basis of distance traveled, or for waiting time, or a combination of both, which charges shall be indicated upon such mechanical device by means of figures in dollars and cents. (Code 1961, § 26.7)

Sec. 24-17. Taximeters required; maintenance, inspection.

It shall be unlawful for any owner or driver to operate any taxicab in the city unless and until such vehicle is equipped with a taximeter of such type, style and design as may be approved by the chief of police, and it shall be the duty of every owner operating a taxicab to maintain such taximeter in good serviceable condition so that it will at all times correctly and accurately indicate the correct charge for the distance traveled and waiting time; and such taximeter shall be at all times subject to inspection of the chief of police; and he is hereby authorized at his instance or upon complaint of any person to investigate or cause the taximeter to be investigated, and upon discovery of any inaccuracy in the taximeter, to remove or cause the same to be removed, and not be used until it shall have been correctly adjusted. No taxicab shall be operated in the city unless equipped with an accurate taximeter. (Code 1961, § 26.8)

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Sec. 24-18. Fares established.

Every taximeter shall be equipped so as to register the cost of transportation of passengers in the city, and the taximeter shall be so placed in the taxicab that the reading dial showing the amount to be charged may be readily seen by the passengers in the taxicab. It shall be unlawful for any owner, driver or operator of a taxicab in the city to charge or collect any sum in excess of the following rates, computation of which shall be in accordance with the figures shown on such taximeter:

For the first one-ninth of a mile or fraction thereof, ninety cents (\$0.90); for each additional one-ninth of a mile, ten cents (\$0.10); maximum fare for a straight run within the city, one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25); for waiting time, eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour and proportionately for any portion of an hour.

When carrying passengers whose points of destination are different, the meter shall be turned back to the "for hire" position each time a passenger is discharged and a fare collected.

For each piece of luggage in excess of two (2) average sized traveling bags or their equivalent in size, fifteen cents (\$0.15) each;

Script may be issued at a discount of ten (10) per cent upon the sale of each six dollars (\$6.00) of script tickets as a unit. (Ord. No. 541, § 1, 6-24-74; Ord. No. 580, § 1, 8-23-76)

Sec. 24-19. Refusal to pay fare prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person except where credit is extended to refuse to pay the lawful fare as fixed by this chapter for the use of any taxicab after hiring the same. (Code 1961, § 26.4)

Sec. 24-20. Receipts for fares; disputes.

If requested, every driver shall give a receipt upon payment of the correct fare. In case of a dispute, the matter shall be determined by the officer in charge at the police station. Failure to comply with such determination shall subject the offending party to a charge of misdemeanor. (Code 1961, § 26.3)